

The IGUANA



Volume 15, No. 24

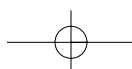
November 28, 2003

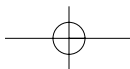
Proving their worth



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Members of JTF-Bravo's Search and Rescue Team carry Airman 1st Class Ronald Lee toward an UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for medical evacuation at Tamara training zone Nov. 14. One other SAR team member and a Honduran soldier were also evacuated to Soto Cano after suffering multiple bee stings during a search and rescue training exercise. For more information on the SAREX see pages 4 and 5.





The Mountain of the Lord's House

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dale A. Code
JTF-Bravo command chaplain

"As the mountains are around about Jerusalem, so the Lord is around about his people." (Psalm 125: 2)

One of the first things I noticed upon arrival at Soto Cano AB was that mountains surround us.

Being born in the "Mountain State" of West Virginia and raised near the foothills of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso, Texas; these mountains remind me of how most of my life has been lived around mountains. Allow me to share a little about my life around mountains with you.

As an enlisted service member in Germany, I recall visiting the Bavarian and Swiss Alps. After attending my church's college in Cleveland, Tenn. (that had its beginnings in the Smokey Mountains of western North Carolina), my new bride (Penni; who is from the "Green Mountain State" of Vermont) and I traveled to our first pastorate in Raton, N.M. in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. It was there that our son Daniel was born.

From New Mexico we returned to Tennessee to pursue more schooling. We then ventured to pastorates in the state of Virginia. Our daughters, Pamela and Paula, were born there and we ministered in the Allegheny Mountains of western Virginia in the town of Callaghan. From there it was on to the hills of Kentucky, the mountains of Korea and now Honduras.

Great things happened in each of these mountainous places and they all hold special memories for us. I recall once remarking to my son as we were about to sit down to a feast in the home of some friends in Virginia and wanting him to savor the moment: "Daniel, it doesn't get any better than this—mountain food and mountain music with mountain people!"

Some great things happened in the mountains of the Bible too. Noah's ark landed on Mt. Ararat; Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai; and on Mt. Transfiguration Jesus "went up into a high mountain and...his face did shine as the sun and his raiment (clothing) was white as light."

For Christians, Mt. Calvary holds the greatest significance of all as that is where Jesus hung between heaven and earth for the forgiveness of the sins of mankind. Tired of "low living" in "low places?" Try moving up the mountain with Jesus Christ!

It is not always possible to stay on the mountaintop though as nothing but pure sunshine will destroy living organisms. Sometimes we have to come down into the valley to receive the proper mixture of rain and sun for spiritual growth to occur.

Another reason we cannot stay on the mountain is because that is not where the people are. After Moses spent 40 days with God on the mountaintop even he had to come back down the mountain to be where the people were.

We can also learn some great lessons about God from mountains. Have you ever considered that as mighty, majestic, and immovable as mountains are; God is mightier, more majestic, and immutable. Mountains are mighty and provide protection from the weather.

I recall as a child in El Paso feeling a sense of security from tornadoes because I thought the mountains shielded us from them.

God is mightier than the mountains in that his presence protects us from the storms of life that threaten to bring us harm wherever we may find ourselves.

There is comfort to be found in God's words to Joshua: "Have not I commanded thee?"

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Sometimes mountains inspire us to wonder and awe by their majesty. Anyone who has seen the "purple mountain's majesty" of Pikes Peak in Colorado can easily understand how the author of the song "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" was inspired to write those words.

As stately as mountains are, however, they pale in comparison to God's majesty. We worship God in His majesty. According to Psalm 93:1; "The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty, and is armed with strength." (NIV)

Only God merits our highest praise and regard. The majesty of the Lord beggars description and perhaps the closest we come to seeing it is in Exodus 24: 15-17:

"And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel."

The next time you see clouds shrouding the mountains around here be reminded of the glory and majesty of God.

Another sure thing about mountains is that they are immovable. They do not move. They are not going anywhere anytime soon. They were here before we got here and will be here when we're gone.

A humbling thought when you really think about it. Although mountains are immovable they aren't insurmountable.

They can be overcome, scaled or climbed. Jesus said "if you have faith as a small as a mustard

seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible to you." (Matthew 17:20 NIV)

Mountains may be immovable, but God is immutable, which means he does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is unchanging in his love for his people. (Jer. 31:3)

His Word is unchanging. God is immutable, but not immovable, he can be moved.

For example; God is moved with compassion for suffering people.

He is moved to action when there is injustice. He is moved with the feelings of our infirmities: he hurts when we hurt. The next time you are confronted with what seems to be an insurmountable mountain in your life, try to "stop telling God how big your mountain is and tell your mountain how big your God is."

SUBMISSIONS

The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to *The Iguana* should be sent to the PAO at james.wyllie@jtfb.southcom.mil or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. D-06. If you have questions about possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676 to talk to the editor.

The IGUANA

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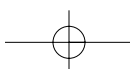
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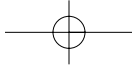
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November 28, 2003

Views

The IGUANA 3

What it means to be a United States Marine

By 1st Lt. Paul Stubbs
Joint Security Force

Ronald Reagan once said “Some people spend their entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don’t have that problem.”

Today we gather with Marines across the globe to celebrate the legacy of our Corps and know that through the constancy of purpose and the honor of sacrifice we stand shoulder to shoulder with Marines past, present and future that have made, make, and will continue to make a difference in our world.

The Marine Corps was commissioned by the Continental Congress on Nov. 10, 1775.

Since that time, young Americans have answered the unique call to duty to become a Marine. During peacetime and war they have continually distinguished themselves and the Corps.

Be it collecting and distributing toys to underprivileged children at Christmas, to enduring the harshest privations of fevered combat, Marines have always aspired to be exceptional fighting men as well as exceptional citizens.

I was once asked what made the Marines so special.

My answer was simple; we think we are. Marines do not go through Ranger or SEAL school. We do not have a high level of attrition in training that defines us as a fighting force. We do not grant a Marine special privileges based on a specific set of training objectives over 61 days or 25 weeks.

As Marines we expect the highest standards be demonstrated in every action and word, everyday.

We do not earn the title Marine once and wear it; we continue to earn it. Any Marine that has been stopped by a Gunnery Sergeant because their hair is a bit long, or boots a bit dirty can attest to this.

We are special because we uphold the traditions of a highly disciplined, combat-minded, expeditionary fighting force that realizes that the nation does not, in fact, need a Marine Corps, it wants one. And it is these traditions that we pause here today to celebrate.

The professional reputation of the Marine Corps is known throughout the entire world.

In Somalia we were known as the black boots and the white sleeves and were not the preferred adversary; in World War One we earned the name “Teffelhunden” or Devil Dogs in Belleau Wood from the German Army, which was driven from the area in fierce close-in fighting, to one of the most lasting images in the entirety of U.S. military history; the raising of the flag at Mount Sarabachi on the Island of Iwo Jima.

In that particular battle, on average, a Marine lost his life every two minutes, for a span of three days.

The Japanese General who commanded the island claimed that it would take a million men a hundred years to overcome the defenses of the island. It took us three and a half days.

An important part of the birthday celebration is the remembrance of those many thousands of Marines that have died in the line of duty, often in the worst of circumstances, in the jungle, in the snow, in the desert, far away from their biological families, but finding comfort that their brothers in arms were all around them.

It is said that there are no ex-Marines, only for-

mer Marines. While this distinction may not make sense to some, one has only to go anywhere off base in uniform to understand. To anyone who has been approached and received thanks by a battle-scarred, grizzled old man with pride in his eyes and a limp, at once keenly feels the depth of the brotherhood.

Every man or woman that ever wore the eagle globe and anchor next to their heart eagerly shares our history and emphatic pride.

Nov. 10 is remembered by every Marine. Even in times of war we pause and give thanks for the honor of being one of the few. We pause and remember those that gave their lives to preserve and protect the honor and freedom of the nation, the Corps, their unit, and often most importantly, the Marine beside them; and we are proud and grateful.

Semper Fidelis.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Oldest resident Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Shott and youngest Lance Cpl. Anthony Korey share a slice of traditional Marine Corps birthday cake.

What is constitutional role of U.S. president?

By Lt. Col. Douglas C. Robertson
ARFOR Commander

Everywhere we turn, we hear about the President’s performance.

Whether the issue is the economy, the war on terrorism, social services or international trade, the world is fascinated by the performance of the President of the United States of America.

It seems as though everything that happens or fails to happen around the globe is somehow related to his action or lack of action.

As we decide how we will vote in the 2004 presidential election, we should be informed not only on the issues, but also on the role of the president.

We should ask the question: what does our Constitution direct him to do, and what do we, the people of the United States, require of him?

Article 2 of the Constitution es-

tablishes the Office of the President and gives him his powers.

It appoints him as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and of the militia of all the 50 states.

It also appoints the president as the nation’s chief diplomat. With the advice and consent of the Senate, he has authority to appoint ambassadors and to make treaties with other nations around the world.

The president is the chief legislator, and has the authority to convene both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The president is also the chief administrator, and is required to provide Congress with information on the state of the union.

The president has the power to make appointments that are required during Senate recesses and to grant commissions.

As the Chief Magistrate he is responsible for carrying out the laws passed by Congress.

With the advice and consent of the Senate, he has the authority to appoint public ministers and consuls as well as Supreme Court Judges.

However, none of his powers are absolute. For all of the formal powers given to him by the Constitution, he requires congressional or senatorial approval to enact any of his proposals.

He must persuade members of Congress and the Senate that his recommendations are in the best interest of a particular political party, interest group, or the United States as a whole.

Because the President requires congressional and senatorial approval for so many of his actions, his office is often referred to as being weak.

But while the office may be considered weak, the expectations of the people continue to increase.

We expect the President to per-

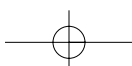
form as the head of State, and to exercise ceremonial functions.

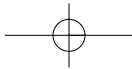
The people expect him to serve as the leader of his political party.

We expect him to manage U.S. prosperity. We also expect him to serve as the voice of the American people and look to him as the leader of the free world, and the world looks to him as the keeper of the peace.

As we move into next year’s election cycle, I challenge each of you to consider how each of our presidential candidates will carry out the functions of the President as directed by Article 2 of our Constitution, as well as the other expectations placed on him by the people of the United States.

By making yourself informed on the issues, the candidates, and the expectations of the Office of the President, you will be prepared to exercise one of our most treasured rights - the right to vote.





Search and Rescue team members rescue an accident victim during a SAR team exercise Nov.14. The team had to rescue five victims during the SAREX.



Search and Rescue team members get a lift from a UH-60 Blackhawk.



Airman 1st Class Mark Holton places splints on casualty Khristie Fuentes.



Search and Rescue Team members use their bodies to shield a casualty from flying objects as a helicopter arrives to help with medical evacuation.

Search and



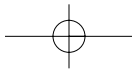
Cpl. Sergio Dominguez discovers casualties April Maloney(left) and Khristie Fuentes. Bravo Search and Rescue Team had to find, asses and evacuate five accident victims.

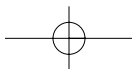
Search and Rescue Team prove th

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor

The victims lay at the bottom of the ravine suffering from broken bones, blood loss, exposed organs, shock and bouts of unconsciousness. “I just thought that I had to start controlling their bleeding,” said Airman 1st Class Ron Lee. “It looked so real, that I almost forgot that it wasn’t.” Fortunately, the bloody scene was only part of a test of the skills of the JTF-Bravo Search and Rescue Team during their exercise Nov. 12-14. “The purpose of the SAREX was to improve the ability of JTF-Bravo to perform a search and recovery operation,” said Capt. Kimberly Jensen, SAR officer in charge. The three-day exercise consisted of classroom sessions, lane training and a practical exercise.

During the exercise, team members were observed by controllers who looked to see if the group demonstrated the tasks needed to be successful. “The team needed to work together in all the training,” said Jensen “They also needed to show that everyone on the team is cross-trained and can continue the mission if they need to.” The goal the team needed to achieve was to respond to a SAR Alert called by the 2nd Para Honduran Military to rescue military hikers on a trip who had been injured by a mudslide. Upon arrival they would have to find the casualties, treat them, and prepare them to be evacuated by helicopter. “The team arrived approximately one hour and 30 minutes after the alert, and were initially challenged by the mountain terrain and the ravine in which the casualties were located,” said

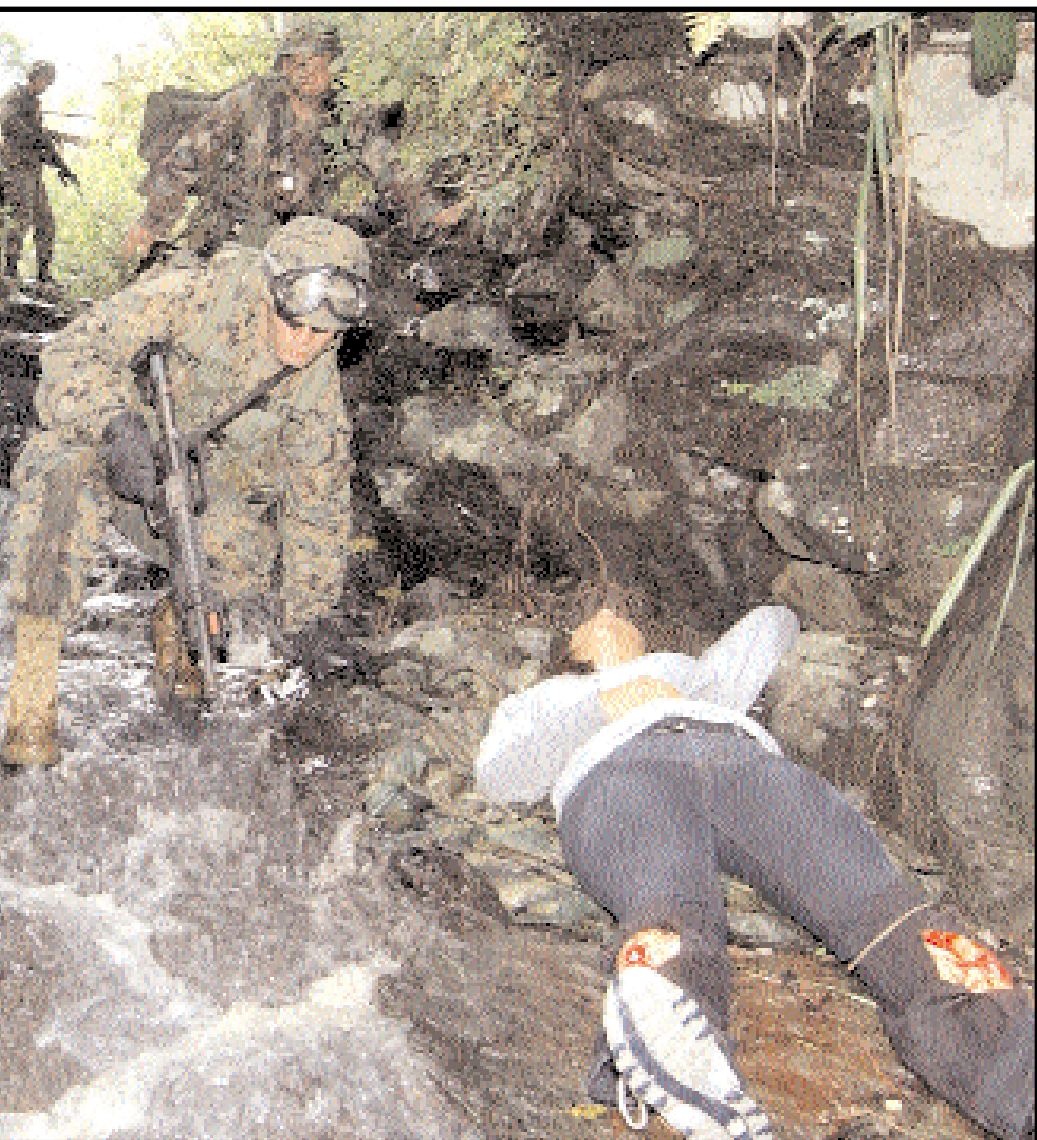




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Search and Rescue



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Notes in a ravine at Tamara training zone. Dominguez and other members of the JTF-Bravo Search and Rescue Team were hoisted by helicopter during the final phase of the two-day SAR team exercise Nov. 13-14.

Their value during exercise Nov. 13-14

Jensen. "They got on the ground, moved out, and when the helicopters arrived, they had 2 points established and started evacuating the casualties."

Although the team started slowly, they showed their professionalism in short order, said volunteer casualty Spc. Frances Curington.

"I thought that they did very well in integrating the things that they learned in the classroom into a field environment," she said. "They were very focused on completing the mission in a suitable manner, and in paying close attention to the casualties needs."

The team was in the process of evacuating one of the mock casualties when a real world emergency arose.

"One second we were putting up one of the casualties in a litter for evacuation, and the next second we were being attacked by a swarm of bees," said Lee.

"It was like being hit with shot pellets."

The attack occurred when a beehive was dislodged by the force of spinning helicopter blades and fell amidst the group.

The disrupted bees stung team members multiple times, and resulted in the team having to evacuate three service members to MEDEL.

"The team worked together with all of their ingenuity to evacuate one mock casualty and three real world casualties for reactions to bee stings," said Jensen. "They were very motivated and successful in this exercise."

The team's performance left a favorable impression on her as well, said Curington.

"I think that due to the skills they have acquired during these training exercises, the SAR Team would do very well in a real world situation," she said.



1st Lt. Robert Johnson treats a bleeding arm wound on casualty April Maloney during the Search and Rescue Team exercise rehearsal Nov. 13.



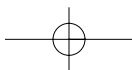
Casualty Francis Curington awaits further medical treatment after being strapped to a back brace.

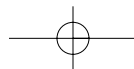


Search and Rescue Team members tie down a casualty with broken legs to a spine board before evacuation.



Honduran soldiers load a casualty onto a UH-60 Blackhawk for evacuation Nov. 13. The Hondurans rehearsed procedures with JTF-Bravo Search and Rescue Team members in preparation for the SAR exercise the following day.





New housing has grand opening



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps, (center) cuts a ribbon with a ceremonial machete to commemorate the opening of new base housing Nov. 5. The new buildings are intended for 1-228th Aviation Regiment soldiers and contains a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and internal bathroom area.

**By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor**

Military personnel serving in Joint Task Force Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, caught a glimpse of their future living quarters Nov. 5.

Four new houses were displayed during a grand opening ceremony commemorating the completion of the first phase of the overall housing project.

"These houses mark a new direction for the future of the quality of life at Soto Cano," said JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps. "It's a giant step of improvement."

Unlike other housing on Soto Cano, the new houses feature central air and indoor plumbing. Residents will also have access to a kitchen area and a walk-in closet. The houses feature a separate sleeping area and large windows for natural light.

"Another bonus of the new perma-

nent housing is that the units are more energy and safety efficient," said Chief of Engineering, Capt. James C. Tehero. "Their structure also reduces long term maintenance, repair and construction costs to JTF-Bravo."

The complexes are made of metal and are highly fire resistant.

Smoke alarms are located throughout the houses to ensure that personnel will be alert to any signs of fire.

This is especially important to housing in Honduras, said Tehero.

"Fire is a constant concern with the old wooden hooches," he said. "These new complexes are designed to negate that danger."

The new housing project began

construction on the first two quadraplexes in November of 2002. It was initiated after JTF-Bravo leadership decided to pursue a course of action regarding future housing projects because of the increase of per-

sonnel following the relocation of the 1-228th Aviation Regiment from Panama.

Leadership determined that hooches were not cost effective given the long-term nature of missions at Soto Cano, and that metal facilities

should be built to reduce long term costs and improve safety and quality-of-life.

The collaborative efforts of engineers and legal counsel from United States Army South, United States

Southern Command, Air Combat Command, the Air Force Institute of Technology, United States Central Command Air Forces and JTF-Bravo have combined to create a successful project, Phelps said.

"This project has taken a lot of hard work to pull off," he said. "From planning to execution, I know that this is the result of a real team effort."

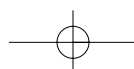
The housing improvement program is on schedule to construct four units each year in order to avoid violating statutory funding limits, with a total of 44 units currently planned for construction.

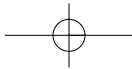
A current housing master plan is still under development by base engineers, and a finalized copy will be added to the Soto Cano General Plan after it is approved by JTF-Bravo commander.

"Our goal is to eventually enable all permanent members at Soto Cano to move out of old housing and improve quality of life," said Tehero.



Outside view of new housing complex.





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Snapshots

The IGUANA 7



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps presents the non-commissioned officer of the quarter award to Medical Element Sgt. Carletta Jones Nov 12. Jones also received a Joint Service Achievement Medal and a \$50 gift certificate from the American Armed Forces Exchange Service.



Photo by Martin Chahin

Reina Corea gives a haircut to Sgt. Gregory Kraft during the grand opening of the AAFES barber shop. The shop reopened after a two-month absence.



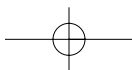
Photo by Martin Chahin

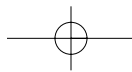
1st Sgt. Henry Myrick passes the guidon to 1st Lt. Jaime R. Fried during MEDEL's Company change of command ceremony Nov. 18.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps presents the soldier of the quarter award to Timothy Jessen and his wife Kimberly Nov. 5. Jessen also received a Joint Service Achievement Medal and a \$50 gift certificate from AAFES for his achievement.





White Water Rafting



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

JTF-Bravo service members battle the currents of the La Ceiba river while white water rafting during the Chaplains' spiritual retreat Nov. 7. In addition to rafting, personnel went river hiking, waterfall climbing, cliff jumping, and exploring in the city of La Ceiba.



The mountains along the La Ceiba river are home to snakes, monkeys, and parrots.



Servicemembers receive instruction from a local river guide.

JTF-Bravo personnel take time to get a little wet during chaplain's spiritual retreat to La Ceiba Nov. 7.



Personnel unload a pressurized raft from the tour bus before heading down the river.

